

and for inviting me during Nation Crime Victim's Week to express my support for the Victims of Crime Act.

As many of you know, Congress enacted this landmark legislation over two decades ago to make sure victims of crime receive the care and treatment they need to recover from tragic incidents. This legislation sent a clear message to victims across America that Congress will not turn its back on anyone during these difficult times. Unfortunately, the President's proposed budget is on the verge of breaking that promise. His budget would cut \$1.2 billion from this successful program and use it to pay off mounting deficits. This cut will translate directly into less money for programs that help victims throughout our Nation.

The people in my home district of Central Kentucky will immediately feel the effects of this cut. This program has provided millions of dollars for the Bluegrass Rape Crisis Center, which this year alone helped over 750 rape victims. For the last 30 years, the Bluegrass Rape Crisis Center has served 17 counties throughout Central Kentucky. It was the first rape crisis center in the state and one of the first in the nation.

Thanks to the Center's services, over 750 women this year have had a friend to face what could have been the most traumatic event of their life. If the President's budget goes through, the Bluegrass Rape Crisis Center will have to drastically cut its services, lay-off experienced staff, and close the doors of their offices throughout Central Kentucky. Without this funding, there will be fewer staff members to answer calls at the Center's 24-hour crisis line.

Do we really want to leave a 19 year old young woman on hold as she is reaching out for help after a tragic incident? Or even worse, less funding will result in fewer rape crisis counselors to meet a woman at the hospital and sit with her as she undergoes a rape exam and a police interview. Are we willing to have a woman wait alone in the hospital because her hometown does not have a designated rape counselor? And what are we going to say to the women who continue to experience trauma beyond the hospital or the police station. A funding cut would also leave hundreds of rape victims without counselors to help them as they experience flashbacks or relapses. How is a woman expected to rebuild her life if we strip away the tools she needs to do so?

On behalf of all the residents in Kentucky who have suffered terrible crimes and are working to put their lives back in order, I encourage all of my colleagues to support a budget that protects victim's rights. We must keep our promise to these individuals and not leave them waiting at the hospital alone without a friend or counselor to provide relief. We made a promise in 1984 to care for these individuals and we have a responsibility to fulfill that promise. All I am asking is that we do what Congress said it would do in the first place.

IN MEMORY OF DR. VINCENT
LEEROY BLOOM OF FRESNO,
CALIFORNIA

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 18, 2005

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of Dr. Vincent Leeroy Bloom of Fresno, California. He is survived by his wife, Melanie, son, David and daughter, Rebecca.

Dr. Bloom, retired chair of the Communication Department at California State University, Fresno, is remembered by all as a dedicated scholar, a loving husband, a passionate teacher, and a strong community member. Students, faculty, colleagues, family and friends not only mourn his passing, but also celebrate his life.

Born in Cambridge, Minnesota, Vince received his Bachelor of Arts Degree from Bethel College in St. Paul, Minnesota. He continued his education at Colorado State College and received his Master of Arts Degree in Speech Communication in 1967. Ever the dedicated student, Vince attained his Ph.D. in Communication from Ohio University in 1970.

Fresnans were soon to enjoy the intellectual stimulation of the Doctors Bloom when Vince and his wife Melanie moved to California and joined the Communication Department at California State University, Fresno.

While at CSU Fresno, Dr. Bloom managed to touch the lives of many. He served as department chair for three years, developed a course for shy students, and served as chair of the Academic Senate Standards and Grading Committee. Vince was also chair of the Athletic Advisory Council. In this capacity, Dr. Bloom was instrumental in forming the committees on campus that upheld athletic academic standards.

Dr. Bloom's efforts, however, did not solely focus on Fresno State. Vince served as chair of the National Communication Association Commission on Communication Apprehension and Avoidance; whose newsletter he edited. He was also active in the Western States Communication Association.

While he effectively negotiated the scholastic sphere of his life, Vince also ventured outside of academia. He was a member of Northwest Church, where he served on its Deacon Board. In his efforts to motivate youth he sponsored the College Age Group at his church and taught Sunday school.

It goes without saying that Dr. Vince Bloom was an integral part of the community. His journey through life was guided by his level of commitment to others—a level matched by very few. Although he has passed on, his memory will forever have an impact on the lives of the people who knew him.

IN SUPPORT OF THE VICTIMS OF CRIME ACT FUND

HON. STEVE CHABOT

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 18, 2005

Mr. CHABOT. Mr. Speaker, too often the dignity and respect that crime victims deserve

are lost in the system, a system that is supposed to ensure justice for all.

Last October Congress passed and the President signed into law the Justice For All Act which brought some justice back to victims through an established and enforceable set of rights, including the right to be present during proceedings, the right to confront assailants in proceedings, and the right to be notified about the release or escape of the perpetrator from custody.

If these funds are diverted from the Victims of Crime Act Fund, crime victims will suffer again.

The Victims of Crime Act Fund, VOCA, was established by Congress in 1984 as a way to ensure the continued support and protection for the victims of crime. It is funded through fines, forfeitures, and fees assessed against criminal defendants and is directed toward states where it is used to provide services to those organizations that serve crime victims. It is not funded through general tax revenue.

In my own district in Cincinnati the organization ProKids is one such organization that benefits from VOCA funding. ProKids trains special court appointed advocates to serve as a voice for children who have been abused or neglected. VOCA funds provide a substantial portion of the organization's operating budget, without which the protection that ProKids provides to children will end.

We cannot continue to deny those who suffer most from crime. I urge my colleagues to oppose using these funds for any purpose other than for which Congress intended.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 18, 2005

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, April 14, 2005, through an inadvertent error during voting on S. 256, the Bankruptcy Abuse Prevention and Consumer Protection Act, I was recorded as not voting. I ask unanimous consent that the permanent record indicates that on rollcall vote No. 108 I would have been recorded as having voted in the negative.

BANKRUPTCY ABUSE PREVENTION AND CONSUMER PROTECTION ACT OF 2005

SPEECH OF

HON. EDWARD R. ROYCE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 14, 2005

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, I want to address my remarks to an important provision of S. 256, that is a clarification of Section 303 of the Bankruptcy Code. Section 1234 restates and strengthens Congress' long-standing intent that an involuntary bankruptcy action should not be predicated on disputed claims. Otherwise, opportunistic litigants seeking to gain advantage in contract disputes may improperly employ the leverage of the bankruptcy court. Because bankruptcy courts should not be used to resolve disputed claims in involuntary cases, the clarification in Section 1234 re-emphasizes that a person who disputes the